Abridged Rugby Ontario Policies for Match Officials

The following polices are important for Ontario Match Officials to know and implement.

All Rugby Ontario policies can be found RugbyOntario.com under Administration

Policies

4.0 Competitions

4.2 Safety

4.2.1 The team designated as the home team shall ensure that the playing field is properly marked out and shall have installed flags, poles and other devices in accordance with Law 1. All goalposts shall be protected with padding. All flagpoles shall be flexible. Cones shall not be used in lieu of flagpoles

Referee Note - this policy does not excuse referees from completing the required pre match safety inspection. Any obligations to the Ground will be dealt with under Law 1.6.

4.2.2 The playing enclosure shall be clearly marked. It shall extend three meters beyond the touchline and the dead ball line. The playing enclosure must be roped off at least from goal line to goal line. Failure to do so may result in the home team being considered in default by the Union. All Clubs should possess an earth auger, flexible PVC poles of at least five feet in length and a supply of nylon rope or similar material, together with pegs to anchor each free end of the rope into the ground so as to maintain sufficient tension that the rope forms a clear barrier approximately three feet above ground level. The rope may be lowered to one foot approximately at the half-way line to allow easier access to the playing enclosure. Clubs which feel that they cannot comply with these Regulations for some geographical reason shall apply in writing for an exemption or easement of this Regulation to the Office of the Union.

Referee Note - Please use your management abilities in regards to this policy. If you believe safety will not be compromised by ropes not being up or home team is unable or not cooperative - start the game and **NOTE** it on the game sheet. The RO Disciplinary Director will get a report on weekly basis of non compliance and make decisions.

Non-participants, including replacement players and coaches, must remain outside the playing enclosure. Trainers and water-carriers shall not "patrol" the touch-line but shall remain within arms-length of the ropes until required and allowed to enter the field of play by the referee.

Non-participants reported by a Match Official for failing to comply with this regulation will be dealt with under Section 9 of the Discipline Regulations.

Referee Note - Match Officials must complete and incident report if this policy is breached

- 4.2.3 The surface of the playing enclosure shall conform to Law 1. It must be grass covered or, where this is not available; clay or sand, provided the surface is not of dangerous hardness. It shall be free of holes, rocks and objects that protrude above the surface. Where these objects are immovable, the game shall not commence until the objects are covered with protective material, e.g. foam rubber over the rim of a running track, earth around sprinkler heads.
- 4.2.5 Players' dress shall conform to Law 4. In particular the following are strictly prohibited:
- a. Any item that is contaminated by blood
- b. Any item that is sharp or abrasive
- c. Any item containing buckles, clips, rings, hinges, zippers, screws, bolts or rigid material or projection not otherwise permitted under this Law
- d. Jewelery such as rings, earrings, braiding beads, other hair adornments deemed to be dangerous and other body piercing that may be deemed dangerous to the weareror other players
- e. Gloves
- f. Shorts with padding sewn into them
- g. Any item, save where permitted by Law 4(1)(e), (f) or (h) of which any part is thicker than 0.5 cm when uncompressed or which has a density of more than 45 kg per cubic meter any item which, in the referee's opinion, and whether due to it not being an item permitted by Law 4 or, where permitted, because of its condition, is such as to be liable to cause injury to any player.
- 4.2.6 Players shall wear for all games:
- a. Footwear with studs in accordance with Law 4 (3) and its regulations;
- b. If these "studs" are "blades", the blades must conform with the IRB Regulations;
- c. Molded rubber multi-studded soles are deemed to be acceptable. These are deemed to be such as are found commonly on footwear designed and used for association football (soccer)on a natural surface, therefore "turf shoes" with ridges or mini studs or other such athletic shoes with a molded rubber or plastic/rubber welt and sole combined shall not be worn;
- d. Jerseys of suitable strength, not t-shirts or other jerseys of similar flimsiness;
- 4.2.7 It is the responsibility of each player to be properly dressed for the game. If at any time before or during a game the referee notes that a player's dress does not conform to Law 4 and the above requirements, the referee shall order the player from the field until the deficiency is corrected
- 4.2.8 Prior to the start of a game, the home team shall inform the visiting team and referee if a medically trained person is available. NOTE: This definition includes athletic therapists and physiotherapists.
- 4.2.9 The home team or hosting organization shall have an Emergency Action Plan that has been approved by its Executive and submitted in writing to the RUGBY ONTARIO office for Union approval. Details of the plan shall be given, on request, to the visiting teams and the referee.

and in the opinion of the referee, the weather giving rise to these conditions has passed. If it is not possible to resume the game within 1 hour of the suspension, the referee may abandon the game.

4.3 The Game

- 4.3.1 All matches shall be played in accordance with the IRB Laws of the Game and their Regulations and according to any further, mandatory safety variations prescribed by the Union or Rugby Canada
- 4.3.2 All senior competitive games shall consist of two 40-minute halves, except where the time period may be reduced at the discretion of the Senior Games Committee. The halftime interval in games under Rugby Ontario's jurisdiction shall be limited to 5 minutes if both teams remain on the field, otherwise, and only by prior agreement of both teams and the referee, the limit is 10 minutes.
- 4.3.4 The match shall commence at the scheduled kickoff time unless there are exceptional circumstances. In such instances, the referee may delay the start by up to one (1) hour, provided that both captains agree.
- 4.3.5 Each team shall have a minimum of twelve players dressed and on the field of play in appropriately numbered jerseys at the scheduled kickoff time. Other than at the junior level, games shall not be allowed to start with uncontested scrums due to the unavailability of players who can play in front row positions.
- 4.3.6 When two teams have jerseys of similar colour, the home team shall provide or wear a set of jerseys of contrasting colour.
- 4.3.7 Not less than 48 hours before a game, the home team shall confirm with the visiting team and the appointed referee the date, venue and time(s) of the game(s). If the referee is not known, confirmation shall be given to the Appointments Secretary of the applicable Referees' Society.
- 4.3.8 In the event of an abandonment, under Law 6, a replay will be allowed if it took place before 75% of the agreed time had expired (normally 60 minutes). Otherwise the score at the point of abandonment will stand. This regulation is **NOT** binding in cases where games were ended by the referee before full time had elapsed because of disciplinary problems on or off the field.

4.3.13 Substitutes and Replacement Players

- 4.3.13.1 Replacement of players due to injury shall be in accordance with Law 3.
- 4.3.13.2 Substitution of any number of players may take place, where participation is the primary objective of a game, provided that both captains agree and the referee is so informed before the kickoff.

- 4.3.13.3 A team may nominate up to 22 players who must be named to the referee before the commencement of the game. Replacement players must be eligible per Regulation 15. Nominated players and replacements/substitutes will follow the provisions of Law 3. If a team nominates 19, 20, 21 or 22 players; it must have five players who can play in front row positions. If a team nominates 16, 17 or 18 players; it must have four players who can play in front row positions. If a team nominates 15 players it must have three players who can play in the front row.
- 4.3.13.4 A player participating in one game shall not be used as a replacement in another game being played at the same time.
- 4.3.13.5 If a game has been completed, then a player may act as a replacement in a subsequent game, provided the player is not so fatigued as to present a hazard to himself or herself and/or other players.
- 4.3.13.6 The use of replacement and substituted players will be allowed according to Law 3

4.6.4 McCormick Cup

- 4.6.4.3 For the knock-out portion, if at the end of regulation time the two sides are drawn there will be a coin toss and the teams will play sudden-death overtime consisting of 10- minute halves until one team scores. For the knock-out portion, in the event of extraordinary circumstances (catastrophic injury, etc.) resulting in the game being abandoned in overtime then the team scoring:
 - A. the greater number of tries; or
 - B. failing that, the greater number of dropped goals; or
 - C. failing that, the greater number of penalty goals, shall be declared the winner
- 4.6.4.4 For the knock-out portion, in the event of abandonment, the replay may take place on the following day at the same venue provided that both captains and the referee agree; otherwise, it shall take place at a date to be determined by the Director of Games in consultation with both clubs and the ORRS.

4.6.5 Ontario Women's League Cup

- 4.6.5.3 For the knock-out portion, if at the end of regulation time the two sides are drawn there will be a coin toss and the teams will play sudden-death overtime consisting of 10- minute halves until one team scores. For the knock-out portion, in the event of extraordinary circumstances (catastrophic injury, etc.) resulting in the game being abandoned in overtime then the team scoring:
 - A. the greater number of tries; or
 - B. failing that, the greater number of dropped goals; or
 - C. failing that, the greater number of penalty goals, shall be declared the winner

4.6.5.4 For the knock-out portion, in the event of abandonment, the replay may take place on the following day at the same venue provided that both captains and the referee agree; otherwise, it shall take place at a date to be determined by the Director of Games in consultation with both clubs and the ORRS.

4.8 Protests & Defaults

- 4.8.1 Any infraction of these Game Regulations, including those relating to Safety, Replacements and Eligibility may be considered as reason for default of the offending team or teams.
- 4.8.2 Where a club claims that an opposing team is in default or wishes to protest the result of a game for some other reason, the Club shall submit to the Rugby Ontario office with simultaneous copy to the opposing Club, a written explanation of the circumstances including all pertinent information. The Captain of the team claiming a default shall inform the Referee and the opposing team Captain at the time that the alleged default took place; where possible the game shall be played. This submission, to be valid, shall be sent by fax, email or registered mail or special delivery and fax-dated or postmarked within 3 days of the scheduled date of the game.

6.0 Discipline

6.2 Who Can be Disciplined

6.2.2 Any person acting as a Team Official, Administrator or Game Official shall be considered to be a registrant of Rugby Ontario (for the purposes of discipline) whether or not he/she has registered to do so.

6.3 Code of Conduct

- 6.3.1 All members of the rugby community in Ontario shall ensure that each of their members comply with this Code of Conduct and shall adopt procedures to monitor compliance with and impose sanctions for breaches of this Code of Conduct by persons under its jurisdiction.
- 6.3.2 All clubs and individuals who are members of Rugby Ontario and all of its Branch Unions and its associated organizations;
- a. shall ensure that the Game is played and conducted in accordance with the principles of disciplined and sporting behaviour and in a safe and proper environment and must acknowledge that it is not sufficient to rely solely upon the Match Officials to maintain those principles or environment
- b. shall cooperate in ensuring that Laws of the Game are upheld.
- c. shall accept and observe the authority of all Match Officials
- d. shall not engage in any conduct or activity on or off the field of play that may impair public confidence or that may bring the reputation of the Game into disrepute
- e. shall actively promote and protect the reputation of the Game

- f. shall not abuse, threaten or intimidate any match official, spectator, organizer, or player, whether on or off the field of play
- g. shall not do or say anything which is likely to intimidate, offend, insult, humiliate or discriminate arbitrarily against any other person on the grounds of their religion, race, colour, sex, size, physical or mental characteristics or national or ethnic origin or do anything which is likely to be perceived as harassment.

6.4 Reporting Misconduct

6.4.1 REPORTING A SEND OFF

- 6.4.1.1 Where a player in a match, including a substitute player on the bench, is sent off, the referee shall;
- a. Take the player's name, in consultation with the team captain
- b. Order the player from the playing enclosure
- c. Inform the player's captain and the player of the reason for the send off
- d. Inform the appropriate Discipline Director of the send off by phone or email as soon as possible
- e. Prepare a written report, on the standard RO form provided (Appendix I) for this purpose, including the name of the player and the circumstances of the send off, and then fax or e-mail the report within 48 hours of the incident to:
 - i. the appropriate Discipline Director
 - ii.the Secretary of the Referee's Society which appointed the referee
 - iii.the office of RO
- f. Where a player is sent off as a result of the intervention of an appointed assistant referee, the appointed assistant referee shall also prepare a written report and submit it according to the requirements of the referee as noted in regulation 7.4.1.1 above.
- 6.4.1.5 Statute of Limitations
- 6.4.1.5.1 A Referee's report must be received within 10 days of the send off.
- 6.4.1.5.2 If the referee's report is not received by the fifth day after the known send off the Judicial Officer shall;
- a. Be entitled to proceed with investigation into the known or reported misconduct and to dispose of the matter as if a report had been received
- b. Advice in writing to the Ontario Rugby Referees' Society (ORRS) the name of the official who has failed to submit a report and the details of the send off
- 6.4.2 PROCEDURES FOR A REFEREE REPORTING MISCONDUCT THAT OCCURRED BEFORE DURING OR AFTER A MATCH OTHER THAN A SEND OFF

6.4.2.1 In the event that a Match Official before, during or after a match, deems the conduct of a player or team official or club member to be abusive, or threatening or harassing to that Official or to any other match official present, or to be in breach of the Laws of the Game and/or its Regulations or in any way otherwise detrimental to the reputation or decorum of the Game, the Match Official shall;

- a. Take a note of the alleged offender's name and club affiliation
- b. Inform the Team Captain or other Club Official of the alleged misconduct and advise them that a report is going to be submitted to RO.
- c. Prepare a written report, on the standard RO form (Appendix J) provided for this purpose, including the name of the alleged offender and the circumstances of the alleged misconduct, and then fax or e-mail the report within 48 hours of the incident to:
 - i. The office of RO
 - ii. The Secretary of the Ontario Rugby Referees' Society
 - iii.The appropriate branch Discipline Director

Note: Policy 6.4.1.1 may be applied in the case where Club officials fail to respond to a Match Official's request to prepare or maintain the playing enclosure or the field of play in accordance with the Laws of the Game and/or its regulations, especially those dealing with safety.

- 6.4.2.2 The home team is considered to be responsible for the behaviour of all attendees at a game. If a Match Official submits a complaint about abuse from the sidelines, including persistent criticism, insulting conduct or remarks, or threats of violence, the club of home team shall be required to answer the complaint. When possible the Match Official shall register a verbal complaint with the home team captain at the time of the alleged abuse so that the home club can take action to request the offender(s) to discontinue the abuse or to have the offender(s) removed from the playing enclosure.
- 6.4.2.3 Where the Match Official making the report in policy 6.4.1.1 is an appointed Assistant Referee, he or she shall also inform the appointed Referee of the alleged misconduct.
- 6.4.2.4 Statute of Limitations
- 6.4.2.4.1 The referee report must be submitted within 48 hours of the incident. If not received within 48 hours the report will be considered null and void.
- 6.4.2.4.2 With exception to policy 7.4.2.4.1 any report of referee abuse does not have a statute of limitations.

6.5 Jurisdiction

6.5.3 The ORRS shall deal with all Referee misconduct, but may request at any time that a case be handled by RO. The only exception is a case of referee abuse.

- 6.5.8 RO shall deal with all other complaints including;
- 6.5.8.2 Incidents involving the abuse of match officials arising in any Branch Union or other organization that uses match officials who are registered as referees with Rugby Ontario.

6.6 RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- 6.6.1 Players, team officials, administrators, game officials and spectators may only take part in, or attend games on condition that they observe the "Published Rules" of Rugby Ontario.
- 6.6.2 Every Club is responsible for the actions of its players, team officials, administrators and spectators.
- 6.6.3 Every Club is required to take all precautions necessary to prevent its players, team officials, administrators and spectators from threatening or assaulting anyone present at the games, and especially the game official(s). Clubs are expected to provide security for players and game officials.
- 6.6.4 In all cases of mistaken identity of an accused player, team official or administrator caused as a result of a team sheet error or other irregularities, the responsible Club shall properly identify the offending party involved. Failure to do this will result in a charge (see Policy 6.9).
- 6.6.4.1 In the event that the Game Official incorrectly indentifies the person responsible for reported misconduct and if the club correctly identifies the offending party, the both parties together with the game officials shall be required to attend the hearing for the game official to identify the correct person if so required by the Discipline Panel.
- 6.6.5 Registered Branch Unions, the ORRS and Member Clubs will ensure they follow the Rugby Ontario Discipline Policies.
- 6.6.6 Accused parties have the right to appear at a Hearing at their own expense.